

Message Text

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66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 115769

R 281750Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7241

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 2 2 4

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TO

SUBJ: CRASH OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S AIRCRAFT

REF: LOME 0215

SUMMARY: RELIGIOUS SERVICES 28 JANUARY BROUGHT TOGETHER FRENCH AND TOGOLESE CLERGY, MILITARY, AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE IN IMPRESSIVE JOINT HONORING OF LAMA KARA CRASH VICTIMS DELAIRE AND CATTIN. FRENCH CHARGE FOUND PRESENCE OF ALMOST ENTIRE GOVERNMENT REASSURING. NEVERTHELESS THERE WERE MANY INSTANCES OF WIDESPREAD BELIEF ON PART OF TOGOLSE THAT CRASH WAS RESULT OF SABOTAGE, A VIEW REPORTEDLY HELD BY EYADEMA HIMSELF. DESPITE FOREGOING, NO ONE PREDICTS DISTURBANCES. END SUMMARY.

1. FUNERAL MASS FOR DELAIRE AND CATTIN WAS SAID BY ARCHBISHOP DOSSEH AT LOME CATHEDRAL THIS MORNING, 28 JANUARY, IN PRESENCE OF ENTIRE GOVERNMENT, EXCEPT INJURED MINISTERS MALOU AND ALIDOU
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AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION EKLO, WHO WAS IN LAMA KARA

ASSISTING IN "ANIMATION" OF LOCAL MILITANTS AND OF DELEGATIONS COME TO EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE FOR PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S ESCAPE FROM DEATH IN JANUARY 24 CRASH OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT AT LAMA KARA.

2. MOST OF SENIOR TOGOLESE MILITARY WERE PRESENT AND TOGOLESE MILITARY UNITS PLAYED PROMINENT ROLE AT CATHEDRAL AND AT SUBSEQUENT CEREMONY AT LOME'S PRINCIPAL CEMETARY, WHERE BODIES

WERE TAKEN FOR BRIEF STAY PRIOR TO BEING SENT TO FRANCE FOR BURIAL. BOTH CEREMONIES WERE TOUCHING AND LATTER WAS SETTING FOR SENTIMENTAL BUT NOT MAUDLIN SPEECHES BY FRENCH MILITARY COUNSELOR ROANTANI AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DARASSE. RONTANI USED OCCASION TO READ CITATIONS OF DELAIRE AND CATTIN, WRITTEN PRIOR TO THEIR DEATHS, IN WHICH PRESIDENT EYADEMA LAVISHLY PRAISED THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND THEIR DEVOTION TO HIM AND TO TOGO. DARASSE, TURNING TO NINE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT PRESENT, SAID THEIR PRESENCE WAS "REASSURING."

3. IN UNPLEASANT CONTRAST TO THIS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT BELIEF IS WIDESPREAD AMONG TOGOLESE, EVEN AMONG MANY WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER, THAT CRASH WAS FRENCH SABOTAGE EFFORT. DURING BROADCAST CARRIED AT HOUR WHEN MOST LISTENERS ARE AT WORK, AND NOT CARRIED OR REPEATED ON MORE WIDELY HEARD 0600 AND 1230 BROADCASTS, NORMALLY MODERATE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF TOGOLESE WORKERS RAPHAEL BARNABO REPORTEDLY MADE ALLEGATIONS OF IMPERIALIST (FRENCH) COMPLICITY IN CRASH WHICH WERE EVEN HARSHER THAN EKLO'S. WHILE SOME MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT, NOTABLY FOREIGN MINISTER HUNLEDE ARE SAID TO DEPLORE EKLO'S TACTICS, I HAVE HEARD YET ANOTHER REPORT THAT EYADEMA HIMSELF APPEARS TO BELIEVE ACCIDENT WAS RESULT OF SABOTAGE. FRENCH RESENTMENT OF THESE ALLEGATIONS REMAINS HIGH.

4. DESPITE FOREGOING, NO ONE IS PREDICTING DISTURBANCES HERE, EVEN ISOLATED ONES. EVEN PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY BELIEVE FRENCH DELIBERATELY CAUSED CRASH DO NOT DEMAND VENGEANCE. PERHAPS TIME WILL HEAL BREACH THIS EVENT HAS CAUSED, BUT EKLO WILL BE WORKING OVERTIME TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT. MEANWHILE, EFFORT TO BUILD EYADEGA UP INTO AFRICAN HERO OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOBLY STRUGGLING AGAINST IMPERIALIST FINANCIAL INTERESTS, WILL PRESUMABLY GO DISMALLY ON.
DICKINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, TO, (EYADEMA, ETIENNE MAJ GEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005